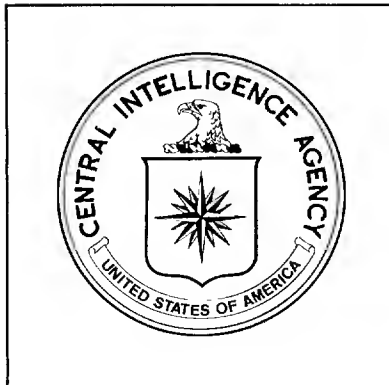


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Western Europe Canada International Organizations

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CONTROLLED DISSEM

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WESTERN EUROPE – CANADA – INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Western Europe Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Portuguese Communists Determined to Regain
Waning Influence

1 Portuguese Communists yesterday vowed to
continue their campaign in the north to reassert
the party's presence there.

3 Their initial foray into the north, a party
rally on Saturday in the town of Alcobaca, proved
that the anti-Communists are equally determined to
be rid of them. The Communists, now experiencing
the same type of harassment faced by the more
conservative parties several months ago, are
demanding that the military guarantee the right
of free assembly.

1 They have scheduled another demonstration
tomorrow in Porto, claiming they have sufficient
power to respond and "smash the counterrevolution-
aries." Anti-Communists around Porto are certain
to react to this second challenge and more violence
may result because the Communists have promised to
3 "take precautions" against a repetition of events
in Alcobaca.

1 Pro-Communist Prime Minister Goncalves, under
heavy pressure to resign, publicly admitted Satur-
day that his new government--now over a week old--
is unable to function because of the split in the
armed forces. He appealed to the people to demand
a quick solution to the "political ambiguities"
dividing the military and political parties which
prevent the cabinet from dealing with Portugal's
more pressing problems. Goncalves promised that
he and his left-wing cabinet would not "shirk
their responsibilities." The statement will do
little to gain support for Goncalves, but it does
3 make clear to those opposing him that he will not
step down voluntarily.

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25X1C 2 The dissident officers in the Armed Forces Movement are continuing to circulate the anti-regime document drafted by former foreign minister Antunes, hoping to gauge support among the rank and file before moving against Goncalves. According to [REDACTED] the cautious officers believe it could take as long as a month to get the support they want and they may not plan any concrete action before then.

3 The dissidents are clearly hesitant to move against their fellow officers and may lose their advantage if they continue to delay. The Socialists and other anti-Communist civilian groups, however, can be expected to continue pressuring them, particularly if the Communist counteroffensive in the north continues. (Secret No Foreign Dissem/ Controlled Dissem)

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West Germans Deny Terrorist Attack
Imminent

2) The West German Federal Criminal Office has denied newspaper reports that an international band of terrorists is preparing to stage a spectacular attack of some kind with the object of directly freeing, or winning the release of, members of the Baader-Meinhof gang now on trial in Stuttgart.

1 The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, citing information released by the "Parliamentary-Political Press Service," reported on August 12 that a group of German, French, Japanese, and Argentine terrorists would participate in the alleged attack. The press service, in turn, referred to a report supposedly issued by a German-French commission that was preparing for a meeting on August 22 between the German and French interior ministers.

2 The West German security officials also said there has been no increase in anti-terrorist protective measures. The authorities did admit that they are maintaining maximum vigilance throughout West Germany because they operate on the premise that politically-motivated terrorists may strike at any time.

3 Since the Munich Olympics, West Germans, and the West German press in particular, are especially sensitive to reports concerning possible terrorist activities. The official denials--and the admission that vigilance remains high--will not put an end to similar allegations as long as the Baader-Meinhof group remains in the headlines and so many loony tunes run loose in West Germany. (Confidential)

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